



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Homan, et al. ) Art Unit: 1724  
Serial No: 09/177,902 ) Examiner: Ivars C. Cintins  
Filed: 10/23/98 ) Paper No: 19  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ) File No: E-1658  
PACKED COLUMN SEPARATIONS ) Date: December 19, 2002  
AND PURIFICATIONS )

AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated 11/19/02, Applicant sets forth the following amendments and remarks toward reconsideration for allowance of the above-referenced application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace claims 1, 5, 8, and 17 with the following claims of the same claim number:

1. (thrice amended) A method of packing and unpacking a column chamber, comprising the steps of:
- flowing a mixture of a matrix material and fluid into a column chamber and forming a packed column from the matrix material, said column chamber having a first port for receiving said mixture, and outlet port and an actuator port wherein said actuator port is provided as having a rod having a binary end placed within said actuator port wherein said binary end of